

News to

## NOTE

By Jennifer Wakefield

HERE'S A GLIMPSE INSIDE THE LATEST HAPPENINGS IN METRO ORLANDO'S THRIVING BUSINESS COMMUNITY.



While there has been an overall slowdown of the economy across the country, the Metro Orlando region hasn't felt the effects in terms of new business prospects. In fact, the local Economic Development Commission has received more interest this year than in 2007. This is partly because of the fact that Metro Orlando maintains a more diverse economy than most people realize, as well as a result of major moves within the business community.

## MAJOR MOVES

**AirTran Airways** announced that it will expand its corporate headquarters in Metro Orlando, its home since 1998. The company plans to add 121 new jobs to its existing workforce. Similarly, **Busch Entertainment Corporation** — the parent company of SeaWorld® Orlando, Discovery Cove®, Aquatica™ -SeaWorld's WaterPark and several other parks nationwide — is relocating its headquarters here from St. Louis.

Two international companies recently established U.S. operations in Metro Orlando: Aromatech Flavorings, Inc., which develops and markets flavors for the food industry; and Trihedral Engineering, a developer and integrator of computer software for monitoring and control.

## EMERGING MEDICAL CITY

News about the region's evolving "medical city" is spreading quickly. There are a host of new development projects sprouting up around Orlando's Lake Nona, the future home of The

Burnham Institute for Medical Research, University of Central Florida College of Medicine, University of Florida Research Facility and proposed Veterans Affairs Hospital and Nemours Children's Clinic.

Adding to the buzz, in recent weeks: **Florida Hospital** announced plans to create the Global Robotics Institute (GRI) — a robotic surgery training site for physicians from around the world — as part of the Nicholson Center for Surgical Advancement; **M.D. Anderson Cancer Center's** Orlando Cancer Research Institute (CRI) unveiled plans to co-locate with the UCF College of Medicine. This will provide on-site training opportunities for medical school students; and, the **U.S. Army's** local simulation and training command unit (PEO STRI) announced plans to establish a federally funded Center of Excellence in the area. This will allow army scientists to work with the med school to develop advanced training systems in healthcare.

To find out more, plan to attend Orlando's first Medical Technology, Training and Treatment Conference

(MT3) from June 1-3 at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort. Visit [www.mt3.bz](http://www.mt3.bz) for more information.

